

SAN MANUEL

BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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American Red Cross Cites San Manuel with Prestigious Award Inland Empire Chapter Recognizes San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians for Supporting Disaster Relief Efforts of the Red Cross



Pictured Vice Chairperson presented Partner Award. From left to right: ARC-IE Board Chairman Tapie Rohm, SMBMI Vice Chairperson Lynn Valbuena, and ARC-IE Director of Development Yvette Ramos.(photo courtesy of ARC-IE)

San Bernardino, Calif. – June 19, 2008 - The American Red Cross Inland Empire Chapter today presented the San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians with a special recognition for the tribe's long-standing commitment to the American Red Cross (ARC) mission of providing relief and assistance in times of disasters affecting the people of the Inland Empire in Southern California. Vice Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena accepted the award on behalf of the tribe.

Toni Callicott, chief executive officer of the ARC – Inland Empire Chapter, presented San Manuel with the Preparedness & Response Partner Award. Callicott cited numerous instances of the tribe's assistance to their efforts over the years including financial assistance and material support for the Red

Cross locally as well as nationally. She stated that when 9-11 hit in New York City in 2001, San Manuel was among those who responded with financial support for the relief efforts.

During 2007, the Inland Empire Chapter of the American Red Cross was able to provide lifesaving training for more than 2,000 individuals and lifesaving assistance to more than 5,000 community members throughout the service area because of support provided by San Manuel.

As part of \$1 million provided for overall 2007 wildfire relief, San Manuel provided \$250,000 to the ARC-Inland Empire Chapter to support the response within San Bernardino County. Families from communities in the San Bernardino Mountains as well as other areas were relocated to the emergency shelter staged at the National Orange Show in San Bernardino. San Manuel's donation enabled the shelter to provide more than 30,000 meals and over 500 gift cards to displaced families and individuals. Additionally, San Manuel provided building space to house the ARC headquarters from which the national office coordinated its regional response.

"San Manuel stands ready to assist when disasters and crisis affect people locally, nationally and around the world," said San Manuel Vice Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena. "It is the Serrano way to assist those in need, especially those who are impacted by disasters. We have found a very effective partner in the Inland Empire Chapter of the American Red Cross and we look forward to a continuing relationship with them."

The ARC Inland Empire Chapter cited the tribe for assisting them with furniture and equipment essential to running their operations in San Bernardino. The service area of the Inland Empire Chapter was recently expanded to include some 1.5 million people from Big Bear Mountain to Chino Hills, making the service area one of the largest in the United States under the ARC system.

The ARC – Inland Empire Chapter also recognized others in the community with the Good Neighbor Award, the Clara Barton Honor Award, Volunteer of the Year and Humanitarian Award. The awards were presented during the organization's annual membership meeting.

About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, Calif. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Since time immemorial, the San Manuel tribal community has endured change and hardship. Amidst these challenges the tribe continued to maintain its unique form of governance. Like other governments it seeks to provide a better quality of life for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services and promoting social, economic and cultural development. Today San Manuel tribal government oversees many governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment.

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